

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes only Fig. 2, replaces the original sheet. Fig. 2 has been labeled as PRIOR ART.

Please approve the drawing changes that are marked in red on the accompanying "Annotated Sheet Showing Changes" of Fig. 2. A formal "Replacement Sheet" of amended Fig. 2 is also enclosed.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 5-8 are now in the application and are subject to examination. Claims 1-4 have been canceled. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended.

Under the heading "Drawings" on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner required corrected drawings to be filed. Fig. 2 has been labeled as prior art.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112" on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 5-8 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 5 has been amended in an attempt to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Support for the changes is believed to be inherent in the claim as previously presented. Additional support can be found by referring to Fig. 1 and to the translation at page 11, line 13 through page 13, line 6. Claim 6 has been amended to be consistent with claim 5.

Please refer to Fig. 1 to see an example of the defined connections. The following explanation is provided merely to address the Examiner's statements and questions in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and is not intended to limit the claimed invention to the example shown in the application.

The second measuring circuit is connected between the first measuring connection C1 and the third measuring connection C3. The third measuring circuit is connected between the second measuring connection C2 and the fourth measuring connection C4. The second measuring circuit includes a first additional resistance element R_SBR_1 connected between the first measuring connection C1 and the third measuring connection C3. The third measuring circuit includes a second additional resistance element R_SBR_2 connected between the second measuring connection C2 and the fourth measuring connection C4. The first measuring circuit includes resistance elements R1, R2, R3 connected in parallel with each other.

It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for clarification or cosmetic reasons. The changes are neither provided for overcoming the prior art nor do they narrow the scope of the claim for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102" on page 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 5-8 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Fig. 2 (admitted prior art) under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 5 includes four measuring connections and three measuring circuits. Fig. 2 only shows two measuring connections and one measuring circuit.

In Fig. 2, reference numerals 3 and 4 identify electrical connections. Please refer to the translation at page 9, lines 10-15.

It appears that the Examiner has equated an electrical connection with a measuring connection. Applicants believe there is a clear distinction between a measuring connection and an electrical connection. Measuring connections, such as those defined by claim 5, are provided for measuring resistance values therebetween. In contrast, an electrical connection is merely provided to electrically connect one or more electronic components. Applicants believe it is clear that Fig. 2 shows only two measuring connections, namely C1 and C2. Additionally, since only two measuring connections are provided, only one measuring circuit could be formed.

Further, since page 9, lines 8-10 of the translation teach that R1 and R2 are resistance elements of a sensor seating mat of a seat intended to be occupied by a person, the corresponding electrical connections 3, 4 of R1 and R2 would not even be accessible for obtaining manual measurements to obtain resistance information indicative of seat occupancy. The prior art measurements obtained from measuring connections C1, C2 are disclosed in the translation at page 9, line 26 through page 11, line 11.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 5. Claim 5 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are

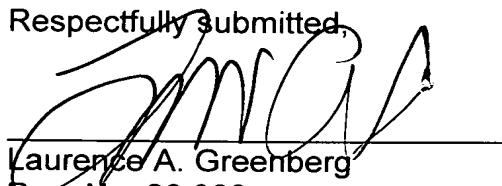
believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 5.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 5-8 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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MPW/bb

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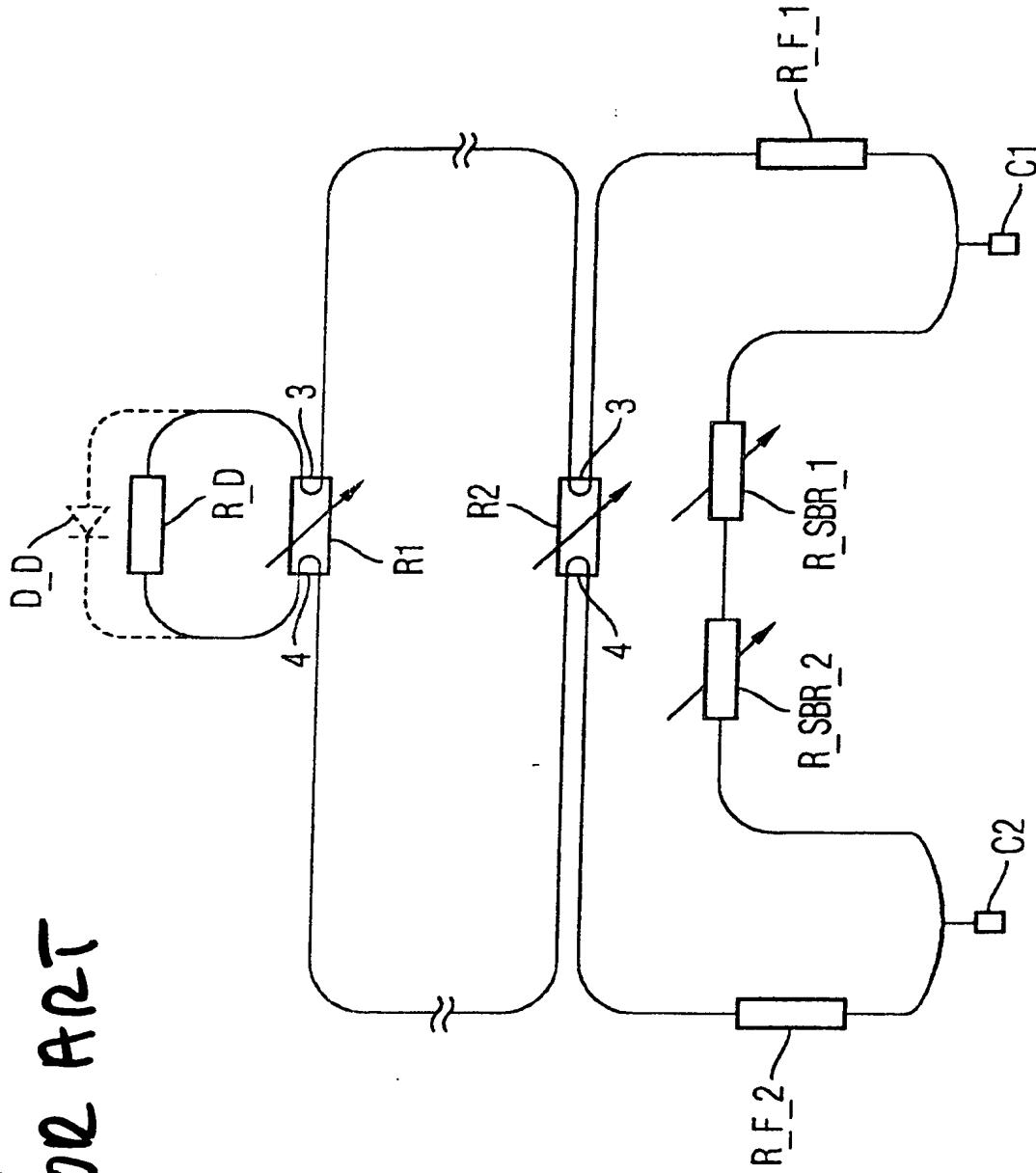


FIG 2
PRIOR ART

